(c) whether it is a fact that ceiling prices concept of formulation prices is given rise to undue price increases due to its normative nature; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to do away with this concept and fix the formulation prices on the basis of actual costs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The prices of drugs have also increased in the last three years. Based on the wholesale price index 1981-82 = 100, the price of drugs and medicines on 13-11-93 was 186.5 (provisional) as against 128.6 in the last week of December, 1987. Revision of the exchange value of Rupee to foreign currencies in 1991 and the full convertibility of Rupee on trade account have resulted rather sharp increase in the prices of medicines, particularly those which have imported content.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Recovery of dues from Drug Companies

14. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA :
DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 429 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th August, 1993 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no serious efforts have been made to recover the amounts due from drug companies during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to recover the dues;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in recovery of the amount due when Supreme Court Judgement and legal opinion is also available;

(d) what is the purpose behind constituting a group and at what stage the matter stands;

(e) whether it is a fact that recovery has become almost a decade old and the department is not taking it seriously; and

(f) what is the latest position and by when total amount due would be recovered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The liabilities in 68 cases amounting to Rs. 254.58 crores have been assessed. Amount of Rs. 18.27 crores has been recovered. Some companies have challenged the liabilities in Courts and the amount involved in these matters is about Rs. 174 crores.

Production and Import of Bulk Drugs

15. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that import of bulk drugs and intermediates during 1992-93 increased manifold as compared to earlier years and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that production of bulk drugs has declined during the past three years and that maximum decline in production at constant prices took place in 1992-93;

(c) what are the names of individual monitored bulk drugs for which the production declined during 1992-93 as compared to the earlier years; and

(d) what steps have been taken to reduce imports and arrest decline in domestic production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The details of import of

bulk drugs and intermediates during the period 1990-91 to 1992-93 is given below :

Rs. in crores

Year	Bulk Drugs	Intermediates
1990-91	322.57	176.70
1991-92	458.51	243.75
1992-93	508.393	474.237

SOURCE : DGHS, Ministry of Health.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Monitoring of production of certain individual bulk drugs is confined to organised sector units only on the basis of information, to the extent available, from the returns filed by them. During 1992-93, the decline in production by the organised sector units has been noticed in the cases of certain Antibiotics for the reason that a substantial production has taken place in the small scale sector, and in Sulpha Drugs for the reason that several of these drugs have been phased out and Sulphamethazole as these are largely produced in small scale sector. The same is true in case of Analgesics. Another reason is introduction of new products belonging to therapeautic category of Antibacterials viz. Quinolones namely Ciprofloxacin, Norfloxacin etc. and Cardio-Vasculars like Nifedipine, Atenolol etc.

There is greater degree of obsolescence in the area if pharmaceuticals and new and more efficacious products get introduced every year. This leads to outphasing of older products. Imports supplement the indigenous production to meet the requirement of medicines. As such the production in the country has not declined, but has shown steady upward trend. The exports have also picked up and there is positive trade balance for the last several years.

Anomalies and discrepancies in the 1986 Drug policy

16. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 439 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th August, 1993 and state :

(a) whether any anomalies and discrepancies in the 1986 policy vis-a-vis decisions of Government on the Kelkar Committee report and the Cabinet decision have been brought to the notice of Government ;

(b) if so, what are the details, when was each anomaly and discrepancy brought to the notice of Government and what action was taken on each anomaly ;

(c) whether it is a fact that list of drugs under price control have not been reviewed inspite of clear provisions of 1986 policy ; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-review of the list and by when it is now proposed to be reviewed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) The matter relating to the anomalies and discrepancies observed in implementation of Drug Policy, 1986 forms part of the Review of Drug Policy, 1986 in regard to which a Background Note was laid on the Table of the House on 12-8-1992 and discussed on 18th, 19th and 23rd August, 1993.

Shortage of DAP Leading to Imbalanced Use of Fertilizers in Punjab

17. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in Punjab there are no sufficient stocks of DAP to meet the requirement of farmers in the present Rabi season and what is the stock position and stocks required ;

(b) what steps Government are taking to meet the requirement of farmers for the DAP ;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to short supply and high price of DAP farmers